

Plenary

Meeting date:
Wednesday, 13 November 2013

Meeting time:
13:30

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Agenda (162)v2

1 Questions to the Minister for Natural Resources and Food (45 mins)

[View Questions](#)

2 Questions to the Minister for Housing and Regeneration (45 mins)

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3 Debate on the Children and Young People Committee's Report on the Inquiry into Attendance and Behaviour (60 mins)

NDM5351 Ann Jones (Vale of Clwyd)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Notes the report of the Children and Young People Committee on the inquiry into Attendance and Behaviour, which was laid in the Table Office on 8 August 2013.

Note: The response by the Welsh Government was laid on 6 November 2013.

Supporting documents:

[Children and Young People Committee's Report](#)

[Welsh Government's response](#)

4 Welsh Conservatives Debate (60 mins)

NDM5353 William Graham (South Wales East)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Welcomes the UK Government's recent announcement on the recommendations contained within Silk Part 1 'Empowerment and Responsibility: Financial Powers to Strengthen Wales';
2. Notes that the introduction of Borrowing Powers for the Welsh Government should assist in the delivery of key infrastructure projects across Wales;
3. Further welcomes the statement that the NATO summit will be held at the Celtic Manor in 2014 and recognises the high economic benefit that hosting such an event should have on the Welsh economy;
4. Looks forward to hearing how the Welsh Government will use these opportunities to best effect for Wales.

'Empowerment and Responsibility: Financial Powers to Strengthen Wales' is available at:

<http://commissionondevolutioninwales.independent.gov.uk/files/2013/01/English-WEB-main-report1.pdf>

5 Welsh Liberal Democrats Debate (60 mins)

NDM5354 Aled Roberts (North Wales)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Recognises that the SME sector accounts for 73% of all employment in rural areas and that small and medium sized enterprises play a vital role in the sustainable economic growth of rural areas, in stimulating innovation and advancement and helping to address the key challenges of unemployment, rural to urban migration and poverty.
2. Notes that lack of access to finance impedes the potential role of SMEs in rural economic development.
3. Notes the particular challenges in the uptake of apprenticeships in SMEs.

4. Notes that the digital divide in broadband and mobile coverage hinders the competitiveness and accessibility of businesses in rural areas.

5. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

a) examine a community bank structure to sustain the presence of local banks in rural communities, and to work with credit unions to increase lending to businesses;

b) work with businesses in the agricultural, renewable energy and tourism sectors to identify ways to overcome barriers to increasing the supply of rural apprenticeships;

c) make universal access to broadband an obligation for providers and to work with Ofcom and network operators to investigate the shared provision of infrastructure in rural areas to maximise coverage.

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Insert at end of point 2:

'and notes the inability of Finance Wales to offer finance to SMEs at competitive rates'

Amendment 2 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Insert at end of point 3:

'and recognises the positive steps taken through the 2013/14 budget agreement on apprenticeships between Plaid Cymru and the Welsh Government.'

Amendment 3 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Add as new point 4 and renumber accordingly:

Regrets the negative impact on the rural economy of the mis-selling of interest rate hedging products by high street banks.

Amendment 4 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Insert as new point 4 and renumber accordingly:

Further notes the points detailed in the Enterprise and Business Committee report on apprenticeships in rural areas.

The Enterprise and Business Committee report ‘Apprenticeships in Wales’ is available at:

<http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/documents/s11015/Apprenticeships%20in%20Wales%20Report%20-%20October%202012.pdf>

Amendment 5 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Add as new point 5 and renumber accordingly:

Believes that the cost of fuel in rural areas has a negative impact on the rural economy, and regrets that the UK Government’s application for an extension to the Rural Fuel Rebate did not include any Welsh areas.

Amendment 6 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Insert as new point 5 and renumber accordingly:

Notes that effective rural transport infrastructure is a lifeline for rural communities and essential for stimulating economic development and tackling rural isolation.

Amendment 7 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Insert as new point 5 and renumber accordingly:

Recognises the burden of business rates on rural SMEs and calls on the Welsh Government to introduce further business rate relief for small businesses across Wales.

Amendment 8 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Insert as new sub-point 5b) and renumber accordingly:

‘examine the benefits to rural SMEs of establishing a publicly owned, arm's length, not-for dividend business bank, to offer finance at competitive rates to Welsh SMEs.’

Amendment 9 – Lesley Griffiths (Wrexham)

Delete sub-point 5c.

[If amendment 9 is agreed, amendment 10 will be de-selected]

Amendment 10 – William Graham (South Wales East)

In sub-point 5c) delete all after ‘providers’ and replace with ‘and ensure mandatory roaming in all rural areas for all operators to enhance price competition and increase coverage’.

Voting Time

6 Short Debate (30 mins)

NDM5352 Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): A Public Inconvenience – Why Public Toilets are important

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13:30, Tuesday, 19 November 2013

Agenda Item 1

Oral Assembly Questions tabled on 6 November 2013 for answer on 13 November 2013

R – Signifies the Member has declared an interest.

W – Signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

(Self identifying Question no. shown in brackets)

To ask the Minister for Natural Resources and Food

1. Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East): Will the Minister make a statement on programmes to promote energy efficiency?

OAQ(4)0074(NRF)

2. Eluned Parrott (South Wales Central): Will the Minister make a statement on the future remit of Natural Resources Wales?

OAQ(4)0070(NRF)

3. Leighton Andrews (Rhondda): Will the Minister make a statement on the role of Natural Resources Wales? OAQ(4)0069(NRF)

4. Aled Roberts (North Wales): Will the Minister give an update following the recent news regarding early payments under the Single Farm Payment Scheme? OAQ(4)0071(NRF)W

5. Janet Finch–Saunders (Aberconwy) Will the Minister make a statement on the red meat industry in Wales? OAQ(4)0077(NRF)

6. Leighton Andrews (Rhondda): Will the Minister make a statement on the management of forests in the south Wales valleys?

OAQ(4)0068(NRF)

7. David Rees (Aberavon): How is the Welsh Government supporting low-income households in coping with the burden of rampant energy costs? OAQ(4)0078(NRF)

8. Christine Chapman (Cynon Valley): What measures is the Welsh Government taking to reduce animal cruelty in Wales?
OAQ(4)0076(NRF)

9. Julie Morgan (Cardiff North): What measures can the Welsh Government take to further improve the support available for farmers' markets? OAQ(4)0079(NRF)

10. Suzy Davies (South Wales West): How does the Minister ensure his department's priorities are fairly balanced with those of other Welsh Government departments? OAQ(4)0072(NRF) **WITHDRAWN**

11. Julie James (Swansea West): What has been the uptake of the £1.5 million Resilient Ecosystems Fund since it was launched at Hay?
OAQ(4)0067(NRF)

12. Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East): Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Government efforts to tackle fuel poverty?
OAQ(4)0073(NRF)

13. Keith Davies (Llanelli): Will the Minister make a statement on his priorities for energy in Wales? OAQ(4)0080(NRF)W

14. Mike Hedges (Swansea East): Will the Minister provide an update on what the Welsh Government is doing to tackle fuel poverty?
OAQ(4)0066(NRF)

15. Christine Chapman (Cynon Valley): What measures is the Welsh Government taking to promote Welsh produce? OAQ(4)0075(NRF)

To ask the Minister for Housing and Regeneration

1. Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): What considerations has the Minister given in the forthcoming Housing Bill to amending the Homeless Persons (Priority Need) Order (Wales) 2001? OAQ(4)0325(HR)

2. **Angela Burns (Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire):** Will the Minister outline what statutory guidance is in place for the redevelopment of buildings? OAQ(4)0316(HR)
3. **Christine Chapman (Cynon Valley):** Will the Minister make a statement on the accountability of registered social landlords and housing providers? OAQ(4)0315(HR)
4. **Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister make a statement on the availability of housing with adaptations and aids for disabled people in west Wales? OAQ(4)0313(HR)
5. **Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** What is the Minister doing to support house builders in Brecon and Radnorshire? OAQ(4)0320(HR)
6. **Byron Davies (South Wales West):** Will the Minister outline his key regeneration projects in Wales over the next twelve months?
OAQ(4)0319(HR) WITHDRAWN
7. **Keith Davies (Llanelli):** Will the Minister make a statement on his considerations when 'calling in' planning applications?
OAQ(4)0323(HR)W
8. **Russell George (Montgomeryshire):** Will the Minister provide an update on the Welsh Government's targeted regeneration programme Vibrant and Viable Places? OAQ(4)0314(HR)
9. **Darren Millar (Clwyd West):** Will the Minister make a statement on the future of the North Wales Coast Strategic Regeneration Area?
OAQ(4)0310(HR)
10. **Bethan Jenkins (South Wales West):** Will the Minister make a statement on proposals to amend local authority duties on accommodating former prisoners with priority need status?
OAQ(4)0312(HR)

11. Keith Davies (Llanelli): Will the Minister give an update on his action to bring empty houses back into use? OAQ(4)0324(HR)W
12. Leighton Andrews (Rhondda): Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Government measures to deal with empty properties in Wales? OAQ(4)0311(HR)
13. David Rees (Aberavon): Will the Minister outline his priorities for regeneration funding for 2014/15? OAQ(4)0318(HR)
14. Elin Jones (Ceredigion): Will the Minister make a statement on the availability of social housing in Ceredigion? OAQ(4)0317(HR)W
15. Mike Hedges (Swansea East): Will the Minister provide an update on Welsh Government support for the co-operative housing sector in Wales? OAQ(4)0308(HR)